

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2010
TO: All County 4-H Agents and 4-H Program Assistants
FROM: Renee Strnad, Environmental Educator, Extension Forestry
RE: 2010 WHEP Contest

It is time to begin registering teams for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP). The state contest will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 10am to 5pm at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest in Chatham county. The first place senior team will have the opportunity to represent North Carolina at the National WHEP Invitational in Los Alamos, New Mexico, July 25-29, 2010.

The tentative schedule for Saturday is as follows:

9:30 am	-----	Registration and Demonstration
10:00 am	-----	Contest Begins
12:00 pm	-----	Lunch
12:45 pm	-----	Contest Resumes
1:30 pm	-----	Scoring and Activities for Contestants
4:30 pm	-----	Presentation of Awards

Counties are able to bring more than one Junior and Senior team consisting of three to four members, as well as any individual competitors. Neighboring counties (no more than two) may combine 4-Hers to create a team. Make additional copies of the attached registration form if needed. This year's contest will consist of wildlife identification and general wildlife knowledge, on-site habitat recommendations, habitat evaluation using aerial photos, and identification of wildlife foods. Teams will need to provide their own lunches on-site, as well as clipboards and pencils for each team member. Contest will take place rain or shine.

The 2010 State Contest will be based on the revised 2009 NC WHEP Learning and Activity Guide – 4th Edition (http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/pdf/WHEPManual_2009.pdf).

PLEASE NOTE, for those that continue onto the national contest, or look at the national WHEP manual, the national committee have made drastic revisions to the national materials again, and as recent as January 2010. However, I do not feel that it would be fair to folks to present them with new materials after we changed the contest so drastically in 2009.

Enclosed is the registration form for this year's WHEP contest. Please return the completed form by April 2, 2010. A map to the contest location and other information will be sent to teams upon registration. Agents and 4-H leaders that are currently not involved in the state WHEP program are encouraged to attend part or all of the days' events to learn more, but must send in the registration form. We do not encourage county teams to come and observe, believing the best way to learn is by participating!

Lastly, as you begin making plans (but don't have your teams hammered out yet), here are some web sites that might be useful. Again, more information will be sent out upon registration.

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest
www.ncesf.org/JLESF/home.htm

Camping in the Area
www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/jord/main.php

Area Hotels/Motels

Jordan Lake Educational State Forest is located between Pittsboro and Apex on HWY 64. There are national chains at the intersection of HWY 55/HWY1 in Apex and HWY64/HWY1 in Cary which are all fairly close. Remember to request the state rate.

National WHEP Page
www.whep.org

NC WHEP
www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/4hprogramming.htm

Good luck and I look forward to seeing you and your county teams at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest!

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